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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, 9, 15 and 16 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected claim; with the Examiner indicating the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. These claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and it is believed that they are therefore allowable.

The remaining claims were all dependent upon independent claim 1. Claim 1 requires "the spring element (30; 130) acting on the adaptor element (58, 58a, 58b, 58c, 58d; 158d) under prestress to transmit a torque or being capable of being brought into engagement with said adaptor element." The independent claim has been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Michlin with Michlin being cited for the disclosure of the Michlin adaptor 29. Adaptor 29 receives end 15 of roller 14 within an end cavity of the adaptor. A hose 18 (column 3, line 36) has an inside diameter sized to fit around the cylindrical end extension of the roller. The inside diameter 19 of hose 18 would be different in each case. Alternatively, an O-ring 27 (Fig. 7) is sized to snugly (column 4, line 23) receive the end extension of the roller. In contrast, claim 1 requires the adaptor to include "a spring element" which is "under prestress" for the purpose of transmitting the torque. The decisive difference between the cited reference and the subject matter of claim 1 is that the spring element acts on the adapted element under prestress to transmit a torque. The cited reference does not include the words "stress, prestress, or spring." Essentially, the cited reference discloses

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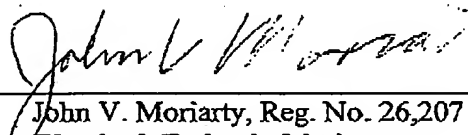
a separate insert for fitting into the adaptor cavity depending upon the size of the end of the roller to be held. The cited reference further does not provide any hint on biasing a spring to the object to be rotated.

A particular advantage to applicant's invention as recited in claim 1 is that the spring element that acts on the adaptor element under prestress to transmit a torque is particularly usable for an automated operation. Such is not possible with the arrangement shown in the cited reference. Instead, a new insert would have to be inserted depending upon the size of the end of the roller.

In view of the above, it is believed that claim 1 should be allowed. It is further believed that the claims dependent on claim 1 which have not been objected to should be allowed for the same reason. It is therefore requested that the application be formally allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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